

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6756

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1507

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, XL
SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON THE CARIBBEAN GROUP EXERCISE

REF: A. STATE 115863, B. GEORGETOWN 1477

1. AS PROMISED IN REF B AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINISTER OF FINANCE FRANK HOPE AFTERNOON MAY 10 TO DISCUSS THE PARIS MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN GROUP DONOR NATIONS AND TO MAKE THE POINTS CONTAINED IN PARA 2 REFTEL A.
2. HOPE PROFESSED TO HAVE NO "SUSPICIONS" ABOUT THE PARIS MEETING. ITS PURPOSE MAKES A GOOD DEAL OF SENSE TO HIM AND HE HOPES THAT IN THE CLOISTERED ATMOSPHERE OF A DONORS MEETING THE VARIOUS MEMBERS CAN SPEAK CANDIDLY ABOUT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE CARIBBEAN EFFORT. HE FEELS IT IMPORTANT THAT SOME OF THE PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS--HE SPECIFIED THE US AND UK--TAKE THE LEAD IN GETTING THE REST OF THE DONOR GROUP "USED TO THE IDEA" OF THE ENTIRE CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE AND ITS IMPORTANCE.
3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION HOPE SAID THAT IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT HE WILL BE LEADING THE GOG DELEGATION TO THE WASHINGTON IBRD MEETING IN JUNE. THE PROBLEM, AS
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HE OUTLINED IT, IS AS FOLLOWS: THE IBRD CONTINUES TO INSIST ON A FIRM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE IMF AND THE GOG AS A PRE-CONDITION TO THE CREATION OF A GUYANA SUB-GROUP. AS OF NOW THE GOG IS PRESSING AHEAD IN ITS TALKS WITH IMF AND HOPES THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED IN ADVANCE OF THE JUNE WORLD BANK MEETING ON THE CARIBBEAN. HOWEVER, IF AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED IN TIME AND THE

IBRD CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT SUCH AGREEMENT PRECEDE THE FORMATION OF THE GUYANA SUB-GROUP, HOPE FEELS THAT PRIMIN AND CABINET WILL LIKELY FEEL THAT THE GOG IS BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, ESPECIALLY IF JAMAICA, BARBADOS AND ASSOCIATED STATE SUB-GROUPS COME INTO BEING COINCIDENT WITH THE JUNE MEETING; THUS GOG WILL PROBABLY PARTICIPATE IN THE JUNE MEETING AT SUB-MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

4. HOPE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN THE EVENT THAT THE IMF ARRANGEMENT IS IMMINENT AND JUST NOT SIGNED AT THE TIME OF THE JUNE MEETING THE GOG WILL PRESS THE IBRD TO AGREE TO FORM A GUYANA SUB-GROUP ANYWAY SO AS NOT TO LOSE VALUABLE TIME (HE REASONS THAT IF THE GUYANA SUB-GROUP IS NOT FORMED WHILE ALL THE OBVIOUS DONORS ARE PRESENT IN WASHINGTON, ITS CONVOCAION WILL HAVE TO WAIT EITHER UNTIL THE NEXT WORLD BANK MEETING ON THE CARIBBEAN OR UNTIL SOME UNSPECIFIED FUTURE DATE WHEN MEMBERS ARE AGREEABLE TO MEETING OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF AN IBRD SESSION.)

5. IN RESPONSE TO A SPECIFIC QUESTION AS TO JUST WHERE THE IMF NEGOTIATION STOOD, HOPE REPLIED THAT THE FUND'S CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO BE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT AND THOUGH HE (HOPE) CAN UNDERSTAND THE FUND'S POSITION, THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE IMF CONDITIONS SEEM VERY HARSH TO THE MORE POLITICAL MEMBERS OF THE GOG CABINET.
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